

Your Family History Identity: Discovering Who You Are

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Goals for the two sessions:

- Documenting your Family History
- Organizing your Family History Records
- Websites you can Use for Search
- Census Basics
- If we have time – Stories

Day One

Documenting Your Family History

Ancestor or Pedigree Chart

- Numbering: Men are always even; Women are always odd
 - 1st person on chart #1 is always #1
- Names
 - Surnames are in CAPS
 - Use Maiden Names
 - “Nicknames” in quotes
 - No surname – use a ?
- Dates – DAY/MONTH/YEAR 8 JUN 1867
- Places
 - Town, County, State, Country
 - Hanover, Columbiana, Ohio, USA

Family Group Sheet – one sheet per family unit (see attachment)

- Provides names, dates (birth, marriage, death)
- Place children in birth order
- Add pictures if you have them

Organizing Your Family History Findings

The Old-Fashioned Way

- Files
 - One surname, couple per file
 - Each child gets their own file
 - Contains copy of research notes, family group sheet, documents
 - Each file is numbered, based on pedigree chart
 - Research log for that family in the file
 - Consider color coding folders
- Binders
 - Dividers
 - Contains everything that would have been in the File Folder
 - Photographs – archival sheets for storage
 - Consider how they are labeled

Technology Organization

- Save in the cloud or your computer or both
- Need to have standard back-up process
- Determine file names for elements
- Scanning
- Hard copies are still needed

Organizing Your Office

- Finding things in 10 minutes
- Keep it Simple
- Writing as you go, before filing, updating research Log

Research Log

Websites

Cyndi's List <https://www.cyndislist.com>

- Categories for everything genealogy
- Report broken links
- If you find a website not on hers – report it
- Pay attention to other similar categories – worth searching
- Start broad and then drill down
- Revisit as you gain more information on your family

FindAGrave <https://www.findagrave.com>

- Can search by name, memorial or cemetery
- Be cautious of information offered – need to double check through other research
- Start broad and narrow
- Request photos and have patience
- Consider being a volunteer in your area

Google <https://www.google.com>

- Use Quotations around the name you want
- Use Quotations around the Name add plus sign for year
- Consider adding words like state name, genealogy, cemetery, wills or marriage records

USGenWeb <https://www.usgenweb.org>

- Organizing by states
- Run by Volunteers
- Great place to see what might be in the county